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CREDITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Report of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

31st. December, 1952

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To the Crediton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1952.

As regards the general health services there is little to add to what I said in my last report. 78 births were notified of which 39 were male and 39 female. There were 91 deaths of which 8 were certified as due to cancer and 1 to tuberculosis.

One case of food-poisoning was notified, 3 of pneumonia and 2 of scarlet fever. Two fresh cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis were also notified.

Shortage of domestic help continues and there is shortage of institutional accommodation for the aged sick. Both these problems are likely to increase rather than decrease in the immediate future. No longer are people as willing as they were to take in and care for their aged and ailing relatives. Institutions for the care of the aged and chronic sick often have long waiting lists.

Area	=	93,370 acres.
Population	=	9,909
Number of inhabited houses	=	3,160
Rateable value	=	£31,097
Product of a penny rate	=	£128 - 7 - 11d.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

L. N. JACKSON, B. A., D. M., B. Ch. (Oxon)
Medical Officer of Health Crediton Rural Area.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the year ending 31st. December, 1952

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1952.

HOUSING

There is little to add to the general remarks made in last years report. The building of new houses is a means of stamping out the housing shortages, providing existing properties are kept in a good state of repair, and those that are sub-standard being brought up to a satisfactory standard. This however is not being done and the gain through new houses being built is offset by the number falling into disrepair. The reasons for this state of affairs are already known.

Council Houses.

35 houses were erected this year and were distributed in the District as follows :-

New Buildings, Sandford 6; Nymet Rowland 4; Zeal Monachorum 5; Black Dog 5; Yeoford 6; Colebrooke 6; Bow 1; Sandford Village 2.

Under construction at the end of the year were 6 at Shobrooke, 1 at Black Dog, and 5 at Bow.

At the end of the year the Council owned 254 houses.

Private Houses.

7 new houses were constructed by private persons and 10 new units of accommodation were provided by conversions of existing buildings.

Improvements to Council Houses.

At the four houses at Wordland Cross, Cheriton Fitzpaine the mains water has been laid on and the earth closets converted to water closets.

New concrete paths have been provided at the Wordland Cross Houses and at 6 houses at Zeal Monachorum and at 10 at Westgate, Lapford. All these are pre-war houses where proper paths were never provided. These instances, and there are many others, show the fallacy of cutting tenders to the extent of omitting essentials which have to be provided at a later date at a much greater cost.

The same thing is happening with post-war tenders, but fortunately not to the same extent, as the Council will not agree with some of the so called savings suggested by the Ministry.

The erection of 10 Garages at the Moorlands View Estate at Lapford was commenced towards the end of the year.

BUILDING LICENSING

This still continues, taking up Officers time unnecessarily.

During the year, Licences were issued as follows:-

10	Licences for repairs and additions - - -	£2,730
6	" " conversions into dwellings - -	6,120
17	" " new dwellings - - - - - -	41,826
31	" issued by the Regional Licensing Officer in respect of farm and other business premises and dwellings - - - - - - - -	24,979
	Total	£75,655

BUILDING BYELAWS

The applications received were 57, of these, 56 were approved and 1 disapproved. In many cases amendments were made, after negotiating with the applicant, before the applications could be approved.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT

115 Applications were received this year and 3 were brought forward from last year.

After any necessary amendments were made by agreement with the applicant, 115 applications were approved, many subject to Conditions; and 3 were refused.

WATER SUPPLY

Slightly above average, was the rainfall during the year. The summer months were unsettled and August gave us a very heavy rainfall. The heaviest in the County resulted in the Lynmouth disaster.

The Water Board made excellent progress with their Contract No. 29 and by the end of the year it was completed. Mains water is now available as a result of this Contract, in the villages of Thelbridge, Black Dog, Puddington, Kennerleigh, Stockleigh English, Poughill, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Stockleigh Pomeroy, Shobrooke, Newton St. Cyres and East Village.

Council House estates are being connected to the new supply as soon as possible, and many private owners are also taking advantage of connecting their properties to this long felt want.

Shortages still occur in the following villages where water has been hauled by the Board to the extent shown - Cheriton Bishop 355,400 galls., Down St. Mary 344,000 galls., and Coldridge 247,600 galls. The Board intend to extend mains to these villages during the coming year.

Set out below, in respect of each Parish in the District, is the number of houses connected to the mains supply, or obtain water from it by standpipe, and the approximate number of persons so supplied :-

Parish	Direct	Est'd Population	From Standpipes	Est'd Population
Bow	25	87	70	245
Brushford	-	-	-	-
Chawleigh	-	-	-	-
Cheriton Bishop	41	143	-	-
Cheriton Fitzpaine	55	192	20	70
Clannaborough	-	-	-	-
Coldridge	17	59	8	28
Colebrooke	8	28	3	10
Crediton Hamlets	2	7	-	-
Down St. Mary	28	98	-	-
Eggesford	-	-	-	-
Hittisleigh	-	-	-	-
Kennerleigh	-	-	-	-
Lapford	104	364	19	66
Morchard Bishop	100	350	23	80
Newton St. Cyres	-	-	-	-
Nymet Rowland	-	-	-	-
Poughill	22	77	5	17
Puddington	8	28	-	-
Sandford	97	339	12	42
Shobrooke	-	-	-	-
Stockleigh English	-	-	-	-
Stockleigh Pomeroy	-	-	-	-
Thelbridge	8	28	-	-
Upton Hellions	-	-	-	-
Washford Pyne	10	35	-	-
Wembworthy	-	-	14	49
Woolfardisworthy	10	35	-	-
Zeal Monachorum	2	10	26	87

WATER SAMPLES

The Water Board sample all public supplies.

One sample was taken by my Department of a private supply and this proved to be satisfactory.

FARM WATER SUPPLIES

Four Ministry of Agriculture Grant aided Schemes were submitted to this Department for observations. These were all investigated and approved with or without Conditions.

SEWERAGE

The preparation of the schemes referred to last year has been completed, and submitted to the Ministry. For financial reasons sanction to proceed has not been given.

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At Sandford the sewer was extended a distance of about 60 feet to enable 2 new houses and a number of existing dwellings to be connected.

The usual supervision, and repair where necessary, of existing sewers was carried out. All settling and septic tanks are cleaned out by suction emptiers when required.

FOOD

Ice Cream: 15 premises are Registered for the sale of Ice Cream, an increase of 1 on last year.
No premises are Registered for the manufacture of this product.

Food Poisoning: There was one acute case. It was traced to Brawn prepared outside this District, where appropriate action was taken.

Condemned Foods: A small quantity of foods were surrendered and condemned.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS YARDS

As last year 2 slaughterhouses were licensed for emergency slaughtering, and 1 Knackers Yard. Very little slaughtering is carried out at the Knackers Yard, the business consists mainly of the processing of condemned meat and slaughterhouse waste.

STATUTORY AND INFORMAL NOTICES

No Statutory Notices were served. Seven Informal Notices were served under the Public Health and Housing Acts and were in respect of 11 properties. All were eventually complied with.

COMPLAINTS

16 complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken where necessary.

PETROLEUM ACTS

The number of premises licensed for the storage and sale of petroleum is 72, an increase of 6 on last year.

EXPLOSIVE ACTS

No new Registration during the year, the number registered remains at 22.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

One person was buried by the Council under Section 50 of this Act.

DISINFESTATION

One case of verminous premises was dealt with.

REFUSE COLLECTION

There was no alteration in the method of collection. Slight alteration of routes are made from time to time to serve additional premises.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The operator appointed last year continued his duties until November of this year when he had to return to the Navy for 18 months Reserve Duty. During his absence essential inspections will be carried out by my Department and any treatment required will be done by arrangement with the Devon Agricultural Executive Committee.

The number of properties inspected, by the Operator was 1,297, and many re-inspections of the same properties were carried out.

120 premises were treated by the Operator.

INSPECTIONS, VISITS, ETC.

The Inspections, Visits, Interviews, and Meetings carried out or attended by the Department during the year are summarised below:-

Housing - Public Health Act	37	Knackers Yard	5
" - Housing Acts	17	Bakehouses	7
" - Council Houses	3573	Food Premises	30
" - Moveable Dwellings	37	Cowsheds	24
Building Byelaws	260	Tinned Foods	8
Town & Country Planning	150	Petroleum Acts	102
Building Licensing	64	Explosives Acts	18
New Drains	122	Nat. Asst. Act, 1948 (Section 50)	2
Water Supplies	73	Refuse Collection	63
Water Samples	3	Rats and Mice	14
Farm Water Supplies	10	Schools	30
Complaints	92	Factories	29
Houses disinfected	0	Interviews, Misc. Inspections, etc.	1418
" disinfested	2	Meetings	114
Sewers	42		
Ice Cream Premises	16		
Slaughterhouses	21		

S.M. PERRIAM, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Surveyor and
Sanitary Inspector.